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"THE CABOT ROLL."

The Customs Roll of the Port of Bristol

A.D. 1496 to 1499.

Translated from the original Manuscript recently discovered at Westminster Abbey,

By EDWARD SCOTT, M.A.

(Keeper of Manuscripts in the British Museum).

With an Introduction relating to entries of the Royal Pension paid to JOHN CABOT, Navigator,

By ALFRED E. HUDD, F.S.A.

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THE recent celebration of the Four Hundredth Anniverſary of the discovery of the Continent of North America by the explorers in the good ſhip "Matthew," of Bristol, under the command of John Cabot,—although not so popular nor so widely obſerved as that of Columbus in 1892,—has called the attention of many thouſands of people, both in England and America, to a subject which has caused much controversy in the past, and is ſtill far from settled, namely, the voyages of the Cabots in search of the New World.

This revived interest has led to the publication of several books and pamphlets on the subject, among the most important of which may be named the work by Mr. Henry Harriſſe, entitled "John Cabot the diſcoverer of North America, and Sebastian his son," and Mr. G. E. Weare's volume, "Cabot's discovery of North America," which have brought to light an immense amount of information of great interest to students.

Though some of the doubtful points about these voyages have thus been cleared up, others remained,—among these the fate of John Cabot. From the date of the sailing of the second expedition, which left Bristol early in the summer of the year 1498, nothing has hitherto been discovered respecting the fate of John, and it has been generally supposed that he died on the voyage. "The fate of John Cabot and of his co-adventurers has been enſhrouded in mystery," says Mr. Weare (p. 165). And again, "Did John Cabot and his expedition, or any perſons connected therewith . . . ever return to England?" (*Id.* 301). "We do not know when they returned to England, nay, whether John Cabot ſurvived the expedition," writes Mr. Harriſſe (p. 134). John's son, Sebastian, whom Briſtol has long claimed, and (notwithstanding his little failings) is still proud to claim as a citizen, seems to have taken to himself much of the credit of the reſults of both ventures; but if the father returned, still in command of the 1498 expedition, to him belongs the chief responsibility and credit for both voyages.

The document which, through the kindness of Mr. Edward Scott, M.A., Keeper of Manuscripts in the Britiſh Museum, we are now enabled to reproduce in facsimile, was recently diſcovered by that gentleman among the muniments of the Chapter House, Westminster Abbey. It was brought to the notice of the preſent writer by Mr. Coote, of the Britiſh Museum, who, with Mr. Scott, obtained the conſent of the authorities at Westminster for the production of the original manuscript at the Cabot Celebration at Briſtol, on Thursday, June 24th, 1897, where it was examined with much interest by the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, who presided, and by many other gentlemen preſent, several of whom expreſſed a wiſh to obtain copies, should the owners allow it to be publiſhed. This consent having been obtained, the manuscript has been autotyped, tranſlated, and printed, under the care of Mr. Scott, to whom much credit is due for the great amount of time and care he has given to the work.

It is of great interest, not only as a contemporary document, but alſo as ſhowing the payment of the annuity of £20 to John Cabot, in the 13th and 14th years of the reign of King Henry VII,—that is between 29th September, 1497, and the same date, 1499. This ſhows, what we did not previously know, that John Cabot returned to Briſtol, and received his penſion after the second voyage, which sailed from Bristol in 1498. The payment of the penſion is thus entered in the account of disbursements from Michaelmas, 1498, to the same date, 1499,—"*in thesaurario in una tallia pro Johanne Cabot, xx. li.*"

There can therefore be no doubt that the pension was paid to John after his return to England.

Suffolk

Bristoll. Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus a Meryk Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiorum domini Regis lanarum Corriorum et pellium lanutarum in portu ville Bristoll. a festo sci. Michaelis archangeli anno xii^mo Regis Henrici vii^mi vsque idem festum sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, reddunt Computum de . . . } + MCxiii.li. iiii.s. ix.d.q^a

De quibus

In thesaurario in iii^bz talliis pro Hospicio Regis . . . . . DC. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite . . . . . CC. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron . . . . . xiii. li. vi. s. viii. d.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia per dictos nuper Collectores de Custumis et Subsidiis x. li.

Et in thesaurario in iii^bz talliis pro eisdem Collectoribus . . . . . Clxix. li.

Et Ricardo Fox Dunolmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis, Videlicet de parte Cxx li. per annum a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xii^mo Regis nunc vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens . . . } lix. li. vi. s. viii. d.

Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad x li. per annum, videlicet pro terminis Pasche anno xii^mo et Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo . . . } x. li.

Et *Roberto Marleton vni seruientium* Regis ad arma de uadiis suis ad xii d. per diem pro excercicio et occupatione officii predicti Videlicet a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xii^mo Regis nunc vsque idem festum tunc proxime sequens Scilicet per CCClxv dies . . . . . } xviii. li. v. s.

Et Johanni Laurence Juniori de annuitate sua ad lxvi. s. viii. d. per annum videlicet pro festis pasche anno xii^mo et Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo . . . . . } lxvi. s. viii. d.

Et eisdem Collectoribus pro feodo suo per tempus predictum . . . . . x. marc.

Et prefato Contrarotulatori pro vadiis suis per idem tempus . . . . . C. s.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia per dictos nuper Collectores de Custumis et Subsidiis xlv. s.

Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiarorum Camere Regis cui Rex xxviii^uo die Novembris anno xii^mo concessit quandam annuitatem viginti marcarum per annum, Videlicet iiii li. vi. s. ob. a predicto xxviii^uo die Nouembris dicto anno xii^mo vsque festum Pasche tunc proxime sequens et vi li. xiii s. iiii d. pro festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo . . . . . } li. s. d. x. xix. iiii. ob.

Et debent Cii s. ob. q.^a Et reddent post alium Computum suum sequentem Videlicet finientem in festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^mo.

		£	s.	d.
Bristol.	Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryke, collectors of the King's customs and subsidies of wool leather and wool-pells in the port of the town of Bristol from Michaelmas in the 12th year of King Henry VII. to the same feast next following, render their account of	1113	4	9¼
	Out of which			
	In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household . . .	600	0	0
	„ „ one talley „ Thomas Lovell Kt. . . .	200	0	0
	„ „ „ „ John Heron	13	6	8
	„ „ „ by the said collectors	10	0	0
	„ „ three talleys in the name of the said collectors . . .	169	0	0
	Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to wit in part payment of £120 per annum from Mich. in 12th year of this King to the same feast next following	59	6	8
	Quintin Paulet for his annuity at £10 per annum, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 12th yr and Mich. 13th yr.	10	0	0
	Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants at Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Michaelmas in the 12th year of this King to the same feast next following, that is 365 days	18	5	0
	John Laurence junior for his annuity at £3 6s. 8d. per annum, to wit for the half years ending Easter 12th yr and Mich. 13th yr.	3	6	8
	The said collectors for their fee for the said term	6	13	4
	The said comptroller for his wages for the said term	5	0	0
	In the treasury in one talley by the said late collectors.	2	5	0
	John Carr, one of the Gentlemen Grooms of the King's Chamber, to whom the King granted, 28 Nov. 12th year, an annuity of 20 marks, to wit £4 6s. 0½d. from the said 28 Nov. 12th yr to Easter next following, and £6 13s. 4d. for the half-year ending Michaelmas 13th year	10	19	4½
	And they still owe 102s. 0¾d., and have another acct to render, to wit ending Mich. 14th yr.	5	2	0¾
		£1113	4	9¼

Suffolk

Bristoll. Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus a Meryk Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiorum Regis ibidem a festo Sci. Michaelis archangeli anno xiii^mo Regis nunc vsque idem festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens reddunt Computum de. } † xx mcciiii.ii. li. viii. s. xi. d. ob.

De quibus

In thesaurario in iii^bz talliis pro Hospicio Regis . . . . . DC. li.

Et in thesaurario in ii talliis pro Estmerch . . . . . Cxxi. li. xii s. v d.

Et in thesaurario in iii^bz talliis pro eisdem Collectoribus . . . . . Clxix. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite . . . . . C. li

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Coboot . . . . . xx. li.

Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron . . . . . xiii li vi s viii d.

Et Ricardo Fox Dunolmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis de vadiis suis ad xx. s. per diem pro exercicio et occupacione officii predicti, videlicet lx. li. xiii. s. iiii. d. in plenam solucionem Cxx. li. a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xii^mo vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, et Cxx. li. a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo vsque festum Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^mo . . . . . } xx Ciiii li. xiii s. iiii d. plene allocatur hic

Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad x. li. per annum videlicet pro festis Pasche anno xiii^mo et Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^mo . . . . } x. li.

Et Roberto Marleton vni seruientium Regis ad arma de vadiis suis ad xii. d. per diem pro occupacione officii predicti videlicet a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo Regis nunc vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens . } xviii li v. s

Et Johanni Laurence Juniori de annuitate sua ad lxvi. s. viii. d. per annum, videlicet pro festis pasche anno xiii^mo et Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^mo . . . } lxvi s viii d.

Et debent xlvi. li. iiii. s. x. d. ob. Et Cii. s. ob. q^a de remanentia compoti sui de anno precedente videlicet finiente in festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiii^mo. Summa xli. li. vi. s. xi. d. q^a. In thesaurario nihil.

Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiariorum Camere Regis de annuitate sua ad xx marcas per annum videlicet pro festis pasche anno xiii^mo et Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^mo . . . . . } xx marc.

Et in superplusagio quod iidem Collectores habuerunt in alio computo suo finiente in festo Sci. Michaelis anno xi^mo . . . . . } xxiii d. q^a.

Et eisdem Collectoribus pro feodo suo per tempus predictum . . . . x marc.

Et Contrarotulatori ibidem pro vadiis suis per idem tempus . . . . C s.

		£	s.	d.
Bristol.	Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryk, collectors of the King's customs and subsidies there, from Mich., 13th yr of this King, to the same feast next following, render their account of	1282	8	11½
	Out of which			
	In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household . . .	600	0	0
	,, two ,, ,, Eastmarch	121	12	5
	,, three ,, ,, said collectors	169	0	0
	,, one talley ,, Thomas Lovell, Kt. . . .	100	0	0
	,, ,, ,, John Coboot	20	0	0
	,, ,, ,, John Heron	13	6	8
	Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, for his wages at 20s. a day, for exercising and filling the said office, to wit £60 13s. 4d., in full payment of £120, due from March 12th year to Mich. next following, and £120 from Mich. 13th year to Mich. 14th year . .	180	13	4 (The whole sum is assigned here).
	Quintin Paulet for his annuity at £10, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13th year and Mich. 14th year	10	0	0
	Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants-at-Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Mich. 13th year of this King to Mich. next following	18	5	0
	John Laurence junior for his annuity at £3 6s. 8d., to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13th year and Mich. 14th yr	3	6	8
	And they still owe £46 4s. 10½d. Add 102s. 0¾d., balance due from last acct ending Michaelmas 13th yr. . . . . Total	41[*sic*]6	11¼	
	Balance in treasury, nil.			
	John Carr, one of the Gentlemen Grooms of the King's Chamber, for his annuity at 20 marks, to wit for the half-years ending Easter 13th year and Mich. 14th yr	13	6	8
	Surplus which the said collectors had in another acct ending Mich. 12th yr . .		1	11¾
	The said collectors for their fee for the said term	6	13	4
	The comptroller of the said port for his wages for the said term	5	0	0

Bristoll.	Arthurus Kemys et Ricardus ap Meryke Collectores Custumarum et Subsidiorum Regis ibidem a festo Sci. Michaelis archangeli anno xiiii^{mo} Regis nunc vsque idem festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens, reddunt Computum de . .	ł mccccxxiiii li. vii. s. x. d. q.^{a}
		De quibus
	In thesaurario in iii^{bz} talliis pro Hospicio Regis	DC. li.
	Et in thesaurario in ii talliis pro Estmerch	CClxviii. li. vi. s. vii. d
	Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Thoma Lovell Milite	CC. li.
	Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Heron	xiii li vi s viii d.
	Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Cabot	xx. li.
	Et in thesaurario in vna tallia pro Johanne Astudello et aliis mercatoribus .	xxv s viii d.
	Et in thesaurario in iii^{bz} talliis pro eisdem Collectoribus.	Clxix. li.
	Et Ricardo Fox Dunolmensi Episcopo Custodi priuati Sigilli domini Regis videlicet in partem solucionis Cxx li. a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^{mo} vsque festum Sci. Michaelis tunc proxime sequens	xxxii. li. x. d. q.^{a} Et hic remanet Regi *non allocatum* iiiixx^{xx}vii li. xix s. *id.ob* q.^{a}
	Et Quintino Paulet de annuitate sua ad x li per annum videlicet pro festis Pasche anno xiiii^{mo} et Sci. Michaelis anno xv^{mo} .	x. li
	Et Johanni Carr vni generosorum Hostiariorum Camere Regis de annuitate sua ad xx marcas per annum videlicet pro festis Pasche anno xiiii^{mo} et Sci. Michaelis anno xv^{mo}	xx marc.
	Et Roberto Marleton vni seruientium Regis ad arma de vadiis suis ad xii d per diem pro occupacione officii predicti videlicet a festo Sci. Michaelis anno xiiii^{mo} vsque idem festum tunc proxime sequens . . .	xviii. li. v. s.

		£	s.	d.
Bristol.	Arthur Kemys and Richard ap Meryke collectors of the King's customs and subsidies there, from Michaelmas in the 14th year of this King's reign till the same feast next following, render their account of	1424	7	10¼
	Out of which			
	In the treasury in three talleys in the name of the King's Household . . .	600	0	0
	„ „ two „ „ Eastmarch	268	6	7
	„ „ one talley „ Thomas Lovell, Kt.	200	0	0
	„ „ „ „ John Heron	13	6	8
	„ „ „ „ John Cabot	20	0	0
	„ „ „ „ John Astudell and other merchants	1	5	8
	„ „ three talleys „ the said collectors	169	0	0
	Richard Fox, Bishop of Durham, Keeper of the King's Privy Seal, to wit in part payment of £120 (salary) from Michaelmas of the 14th year to the Michaelmas next following	32	0	10¼ [And there remains a balance not assigned by the King £87 19s. 1¾d.]
	Quintin Paulet, for his annuity at £10, to wit for the half years ending Easter in the 14th and Mich. in the 15th year	10	0	0
	John Carr, one of the gentlemen grooms of the King's chamber, for his annuity at 20 marks, to wit for the half years as above	16	13	4
	Robert Marleton, one of the King's Serjeants at Arms, for his wages at 12d. a day for filling the said office, to wit from Michaelmas 14th year to the same feast next following	18	5	0

Endorsed:—Brystolle, the accounts of the Customers.